



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1996

No. 9

## Senate

The Senate met at 5 p.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

*Give to the Lord the glory due His name, bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!*—I Chronicles 16:29.

Sovereign God, gracious Father, blessed Redeemer, inspiring Spirit, we worship You for Your faithfulness, loving kindness, justice, and mercy. The offering we bring to our worship of You is ourselves. Nothing in our hands we bring; simply to Your grace we cling. We worship You in awe and wonder, joy and gladness, delight and dependence. The blessing of belonging to You is the only beauty of holiness we have to offer. All that we have and are belongs to You. The Nation that You have called us to lead is Your Nation. Our greatness in the past is because of Your goodness; our triumph in the future is assured only as we trust in You.

May all of life express our worship of You. We seek to express our worship of You in our work, our relationships, our responsibilities. We commit ourselves to practice Your presence in the sublime and in the simple, with people of great and of no reputation, in duties that bring us recognition and those only You can see. To God be the glory. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. This afternoon, the Senate will be in session for a period of morning business. There will be no

rollcall votes during today's session. The Senate may consider any legislative items that can be cleared for action by unanimous consent. All Senators should be reminded the continuing resolution expires Friday of this week. It is therefore expected the Senate will consider a new continuing resolution when one becomes available from the House. The Senate may also consider the Department of Defense authorization conference report as well as the START II Treaty.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able minority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the President.

### THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to compliment the President of the United States on his State of the Union Message last night. I think the reaction today is certainly an indication of the degree to which the President succeeded in articulating his message last night. He discussed, as he can so ably, his record for the last 3 years, reminding us that the economy is much stronger than it was when he took office, reminding us that we have reduced the Federal work force by 200,000 personnel, reminding us that the growth in the economy itself is as strong as it has been in the past 30 years, and recognizing that we have made substantial progress in reducing the deficit.

So, indeed, from the perspective of the Government, as well as from the point of view of the economy, America is strong and the State of the Union reflects that strength, as he reminded us last night.

He also sought to challenge us in seven very specific ways. I think his

challenge was appropriate. Indeed, our country expects us to meet the challenges of education, a stronger economy, the need for health care reform, and a whole range of issues that the President addressed so ably and articulately last night.

Most importantly perhaps, he reminded us that the effort over the last several weeks to achieve meaningful deficit reduction has indeed, to at least a certain extent, succeeded. The fact is, as the President indicated last night, if you take the lesser of the amounts agreed to on either side in the most recent offers by both the Republicans and the Democrats, we could achieve deficit reduction totaling more than \$700 billion.

Mr. President, that is a very significant achievement. He challenged us last night, to continue the effort to find common ground, to reach out across the aisle to establish a meaningful dialog, to continue to build on what we have already achieved, and to continue to find ways in which to make the common ground more meaningful. In so doing we can realize a balanced Federal budget in 7 years using the Congressional Budget Office figures.

In that regard, Mr. President, I was extremely pleased with the announcement this morning by the Speaker that he, too, felt that common ground efforts ought to be sought, and that we ought to continue to find ways in which to build upon the common agreement that we have reached thus far in achieving a meaningful balanced budget.

In my view, that is a breakthrough. When you have the President of the United States and the Speaker of the House, the most prominent Democrat and one of the most prominent Republicans, agreeing in public that indeed

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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